

REMARKS

The Office Action dated April 7, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-21 remain pending, of which the independent claims are 1, 9 and 17. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8-17 and 19 have been amended. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,434,196 to Sethuraman et al. (“Sethuraman”).

Claim 1 has now been amended to further clarify that the claimed apparatus resides in the receiver (specification, FIG. 1, ref. no. 130). The amendment of claim 1 finds support in FIGs. 1 and 4 and accompanying text in the specification (e.g., page 13, line 2 to page 14, line 13).

The Sethuraman reference, by contrast, relates to processing that occurs in a transmitter of an encoded video stream, that transmitter transmitting the encoded stream externally to a receiver.

For at least this reason, the cited reference fails to anticipate the invention as recited in claim 1 as amended.

Moreover, since the Sethuraman processing is directed to encoding at a transmitter, that processing cannot be applied for decoding at the receiver. Nor would one be motivated, based on Sethuraman, to implement at a receiver processing suggestive of the invention as recited in claim 1. Essentially, Sethuraman is not directed to solving a problem solved by the invention as recited in claim 1 (specification, e.g., page 5, line 21

– page 6, line 2). Accordingly and in addition, therefore, Sethuraman does not render claim 1 obvious.

As to claims 9 and 17, they have been amended similarly, and their amendment finds support in the same portions of the applicant's disclosure as those that apply to claim 1. Claims 9 and 17 are therefore likewise deemed to be patentable over the cited reference.

Regarding the other claims, each depends from a base claim and is deemed to be patentable at least due to its dependency, although each warrants further consideration based on its individual, additional merits.

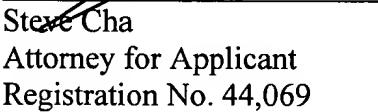
For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 7, 2004

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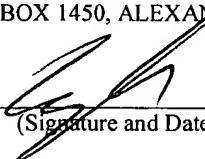
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(Signature and Date)